

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figs. 1,2, and 9 with the following replacement drawings submitted herewith.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets: Three (3) drawing sheets (Figs. 1, 2, and 9)

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define patentable subject matter.

The drawings, in particular, FIGS. 1, 2, and 9 remain objected to. Claims 4-9 remain rejected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-9 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kao (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0033726 in view of well known prior art. Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejections.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, the Examiner asserts that FIGS. 1, 2, and 9 should be labeled as “Prior Art”. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended FIGS. 1, 2, and 9 to read “PRIOR ART”. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the objection to the drawings.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, made with regard to claims 4-9, in the previous Amendment filed on June 7, 2007, Applicant submitted that the Examiner’s assertion that “[t]he term “gender changer” in claims 4-9 is used by the claim to mean “converting a connector (plug/receptacle) of one type to a connector of another type, but the same gender”, while the accepted meaning is “converting a connector (plug/receptacle) of one gender to a connector of another gender, but the same type”, is erroneous, and that the claimed invention does not limit the “gender changer” to the conversion of a connector of one type and a specific gender to a connector of a second type and the same gender. Further, Applicant argued that the Examiner’s assertion that the “accepted meaning” of a gender changer

is “converting a connector...of one gender to a connector of another gender, but the same type”
is clearly erroneous.

In response, the Examiner asserts:

[T]he examiner maintains the rejection because as claimed, the device is not a gender changer, in that it does not convert a connector from one gender to another. It may change the type of connector, but not the gender. The device comprises a plug (male) and a receptacle (female), meaning that if a plug (male) connects to it, the result is still a plug (male).

Nevertheless, Applicant respectfully submits that the original specification adequately defines or discloses the term “gender changer”. The original specification discloses (at least on pages 7 and 8), that the gender changer of the claimed invention changes a card-type connector to a Series A or Series B connector (as shown in FIG. 2) or changes a Series A (or Series B) connector to a card-type connector. The original specification clearly defines the claimed “gender changer”. Contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, a gender changer does not only connect a connector of one gender to a connector of another gender. Gender changers which connect connectors of the same gender are also available. Male gender changers are male on both sides and used to mate two female-ended cables that could not otherwise be connected to each other. Similarly, female gender changers are female on both sides and used to mate two male-ended cables that could not otherwise be connected to each other. Male-to-female gender changers convert a male connector into a female connector that can be mated with another male connector. Female-to-male connectors change a female connector into a male connector that can be mated with another female connector. Further, gender changers are used with many types of RF and microwave connectors.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 4-9 to change “USB gender changer” to “card-type USB connector”. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

With respect to the prior art rejections of claims 1-9, in the previous Amendment, Applicant submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in Kao of “a card type plug having a plug body and a plurality of pins on a top of the plug body and a card type receptacle having a receptacle body receiving the card type plug therein” as recited in independent claim 1 and analogously required by independent claims 4 and 7. Applicant submitted that Kao describes a USB plug and a USB receptacle, but does not teach or suggest a card type plug or card type receptacle as required by the claims. Applicant further submitted that FIGS. 15 and 16 of Kao illustrate the USB plug or USB receptacle of the memory card, but do not disclose the card-type plug or receptacle.

In response, the Examiner asserts:

Regarding the arguments that the device of Kao is not a card-type the device, the examiner disagrees and notes the implementation of Kao's invention in Figure 16, clearly showing the device in the form of a memory card.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in Kao of “a card type plug having a plug body and a plurality of pins on a top of the plug body and a card type receptacle having a receptacle body receiving the card type plug therein” as recited in independent claim 1 and analogously required by independent claim 4. Kao does not teach or suggest that plug 140 of FIG. 15 or plug 150 of FIG. 16 are card-type plugs as required by independent claim 1, 4 and 7.

Further, the Examiner states that FIG. 13 of Kao discloses a card-type USB, and the turning on and off of a plurality of pins by the contact of the plug and the receptacle is obvious to those skilled in the art.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention of Kao is not a card-type USB connector, but only a plug for using various external devices. FIG. 13 shows that a USB plug is attached on a silicon disk driver, so it looks like a card-type plug, but in reality the configuration is completely different. Because the card-type plug body of the instant invention corresponds to a portion where the silicon disk driver is attached in FIG. 13 of Kao, each element is different. Further, FIGS. 14-16 of Kao disclose attaching a USB plug on an IC card or CF card, so the configuration is different from the card-type USB connector of the present invention.

Hence, Kao discloses a USB plug attached on various peripheral devices of a computer, and does not disclose a card-type connector of the present invention. Here, the card-type connector of the present invention is not a USB type A or B presented in the prior art or Kao, but a novel type including each of the receptacle body and the plug body so that they can be inserted in a card type as disclosed in FIGS. 3 and 4. Hence, Kao does not imply or teach a card-type USB, so the card-type USB connector cannot be easily invented based on Kao.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submit that independent claim 1, 4, and 7 should be allowable because the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1, 4, and 7.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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